(b) if so, whether a total of 84 Indian exhibitors attended this meeting;

(c) if so, what are the names of other countries that participated in the meeting;

(d) whether this year, more than double delegates and countries participated in the meeting; and

(e) if so, to what extent the decisions taken will help to improve the tourist traffic in India and also in the world?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (e) The World Tourism Mart (WTM) was held in London from Nov. 11—14, 2002. This year, WTM attracted larger participation and over 5000 travel and tourism related companies from 185 countries including Thailand, Singapore, United Kingdom, France, China, Malaysia. etc. participated. The Government of India also participated in the event in association with 15 State Governments and 59 travel and tourism related organizations. The opportunity was used to re-position India's tourism products in various key markets under the brand—'Incredible India'. Foreign Travel Trade and media were briefed on the new developments and initiatives underway for marketing and development of various tourism products.

Tourist guide training on spiritual aspect of Majuli Island

2077. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken or proposed to be taken for organizing a special tourist guide training on spiritual aspect of Majuli Island in collaboration with Government of Assam;

(b) the action taken by Government to preserve the heritage properties maintained in the Satra Institutions of Assam;

(c) whether any survey has been made on the Archaeological sites or properties in the Majuli Island of Assam;

(d) if so, the list of properties/sites identified; and

(e) if not, by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Department of Tourism has issued instructions to the Regional Director, India Tourism, Guwahati for organising a Tourist Guide Training Programme. Regional Director has taken up the matter with the Government of Assam and an NGO for working out modalities of the Guide training programme.

(b) to (e) Archaeological Survey of India do not have any protected monuments on the Majuli Island. However, some surveys have been conducted by Archaeological Survey of India through its Circle office at Guwahati. The Island is known for its intangible heritage and satriya dance form traditionally associated with Vaishnava religion, arts and culture founded by Vaishnava Saint Sri Sri Shankardeva in the 15th century A.D. Tangible heritage is reported to be the Satra building with wooden architecture which house antiquities like coins, manuscripts, copper plates, ritualistic implements with inscription and images of gods and goddesses.

MoU with U.P.

2078. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sign MoU with other States particularly Tamil Nadu on the lines of signing MoU with Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details of the development of tourism made in Tamil Nadu and other States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) The Government have not signed any MoU with the States/UTs. However, ITDC has so far signed MoUs with eight State Governments/Tourism Corporations including Tamil Nadu to join hands in taking initiatives for promotion of tourism infrastructure/ services in the State of Tamil Nadu.